administrative functions. Sinecure posts wherever they existed should be abolished. Government should be scrupulously careful to appoint only persons of well-known ability as officers in the Judicial Department. Promotions in every department should be given according to efficiency and not according to the accidents of rank or grade. Medical officers in the Government service should not be allowed to get fee for their services.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr Parameswaran Pillai, much of what you referred to has been covered by previous remarks of mine and whatever else remains will receive attention if you hand over your representation to me.

174, Administrative reforms.

MR. K. G. THOMAS (*Member, Mavelikara taluk*) said that agricultural panchayats should be established all over the State. The number of those who followed agriculture as their profession in the State was 23 lakhs. The Statistical Volume published by Government and the Census Report gave a different number, but that was a mistake. Many of the figures given in the Statistical Volume especially were incorrect. This could be readily illustrated by a reference to the figures given in it of the quantity of rice and paddy imported into the State. That was by the way. The condition of the greater majority of the 23 lakhs of agriculturists was very poor. On account of poverty and insanitary living they had fallen a prey to many diseases. Another feature of the countryside was the absence of efficient means of communication. There was also a remarkable scarcity of educational institutions. That was the present-day condition of the rural areas of Travancore. It was high time that this state of affairs should become a thing of the past.

An economic survey of the rural areas should be conducted soon.

A development department should be organised. The Economic Development Board was of little real use to the agricultural population. Hence the need for a new department.

An agricultural conference should be held at which the needs of the agriculturists should be ascertained at first hand and the necessary measures devised for improving their lot.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomas, the collection of figures regarding imports—you referred to rice in particular—is not made in the casual manner you conjecture. They are based on shipping documents, invoices and bills of trade.

As regards agriculture, I quite agree with you that a great deal can be done and should be done. I also agree with you that, as is the case with communications, dispensaries and so on, so also in the case of agriculture, there is scope for closer touch between the officers and the cultivators. The question of larger activities in the development and

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improvement of agriculture has already been taken up by me in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and I hope that before long it may be possible to evolve a scheme which will not only work effectively but work rapidly.

175. Facilities for the development of commerce, industries and agriculture.

MR. M. M. SHAHUL HAMEED SAHEB (*Member, Nominated*) said that in the interests of agriculture the tanks in the Tovala, Agasteeswaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks should be repaired. A part of the cost of repairing the tanks might even be recovered from the ryots.

A bridge should be constructed at Kariyamanickapuram on the Pazhayar midway between the bridges at Ozhuganasery and Suchindram.

The western bank of the Pazhayar at the 18th mile should be repaired.

In regard to commerce, several members had already referred to the working of the Income Tax Regulation, the paucity of means of communication etc. Government should pay earnest attention to these representations. In order to further develop the commerce of the State a pier should be put up at Colachel.

The Kallar hydro-electric scheme should be taken up and investigated again, so as to see whether it could be utilised as a means of securing the industrialisation of the country. Travancore had many natural products. The manufacture of these raw-products was not making headway merely for want of cheap power. If such power could be provided, cocoagem could be made from cocoa-nuts, sago could be made from tapioca flour, and wood which was selling very cheap now could be made into finished products and sold for handsome prices.

Cottage industries such as coir-making, basket-making etc., should be developed. Government should provide facilities for the export of the articles made in the State into foreign countries.

Natives should be allowed a greater share in the Chamber of Commerce.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Shahul Hameed Sahib, to begin at the end of your representation, I am afraid the Government have no rights of intervention in the affairs of the Chamber of Commerce which is a voluntary association of private merchants for their own good and for the good of trade and commerce generally in the country.

I quite agree with you that if we have a tentative supply of cheap power it will go a long way towards industrialising the country; but first of all you have got to implant an industrial mind in the people. That will take a long time and until that tendency begins to develop I think it will be uneconomical to establish a powerful hydro-electric station producing, perhaps, vast supplies of power which could not be utilised. I have no doubt that when the time comes that would become realisable.

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